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WIB Healthcare Committee
Capital Health
January 17, 2012—12:30 PM

Present: Scott Clemmensen (Capital Health), Sharon Nemeth (MCTS), Lucille Jones (MCTS), Bonny Ross (St. Francis Medical Center), Beverly Mills (Mercer County WIB), June Gray (Children's Futures), Karen Clark (Horizon NJ Health), Paul Vlecidies (Buckingham Place), Sandy Lopacki (Healthcare Talent Coordinator)

Opening

Meeting was opened by Scott Clemmensen with introductions and a welcome to visitors.

Minutes from the November 15, 2011 meeting were reviewed – a motion was made by Sharon Nemeth and seconded by Bonny Ross to approve the minutes. The minutes will be placed on the Mercer County WIB website.

Mercer Healthcare Academy Update

Lucille Jones updated on behalf of the Healthcare Academy. There will be a Language Arts and Math assessment on Saturday, January 21, 2012 and they are expecting 40 students (only 30 will be taken). The Chemistry Lab is in the process of being finished. This year Physiology I will be mandatory and next year Physiology II (curriculum has been approved). Students are finding they are working harder than average classes. Anatomy courses are new and if a student passes the course with a "B" average and pass the final exam they will receive credits from UMDNJ. She further reported that the State has changed the reporting system this year. Starting this year students from sending school districts must be reported as attending the Technical School; this reporting system (NJ Smart) will give a better chance of funds following students attending MCTS.

The **Trenton Times** ran an article about the Technical school regarding the shared time program. A class trip to NJ Institute of Technology is planned.

Bonny commented that good science grades are an indicator of how well a student may do in an Anatomy course.

Lucille further mentioned that students above a 3.5 average will take honors courses and others will continue with the college track.

Sandy inquired if everyone was familiar with NJHealthcarecareers.com?

Sharon mentioned that her school does not currently offer a CNA program; they make referrals to MCCC. The Healthcare Career Center is looking to start a CNA program since CNA's and Home Health Aids are very much in demand.

Bonny added the drawback is that the course is only available on Saturdays and takes a long time to complete; a shorter more condensed course is greatly needed. The School of Nursing requires CNA training.

June Gray mentioned she reviews Home Health Aid training curriculum around the State – many are trained by the employing agency but still can not be certified until background checks are completed.

Sharon discussed the backlog in students receiving certification. Problem is Board of Nursing certifies Home Health Aids and Health and Human Services will certify CNA's. This has presented such a problem Healthcare Career Center will send student information by certified mail only.

Paul concurred saying the wait can be up to three months for Home Health Aid certification; this is time lost when the person could be employed.

Bonny added the Board of Nursing has added more employees so many this will help the situation.

June commented that from the employer perspective you want to be sure credentials are in order as this is a highly regulated business.

Trenton Public School CNA Program

Dave Cipolloni was not able to attend due to illness and will update at the March meeting. Scott inquired if Trenton was a sending school. Lucille said it was and that students could be certified and working in two semesters; they could start training in September and be sent to a job by January.

NJ Healthcare Talent Network

Sandy Lopacki, Coordinator for the Healthcare Talent Network, presented background on the six Talent Networks and their purpose. She mentioned healthcare is the only sector that has a presence in all counties. The overall mission is to connect employers, educators and job seekers. She mentioned being very interested in hearing about the delays in students receiving certification and will make sure to bring this to the State level.

Points covered regarding the healthcare sector: anticipated growth is 25% especially in residential, rehabilitation and ambulatory care. Sandy mentioned the certainties (an aging population and workforce) and uncertainties (Affordable Healthcare Act) in the healthcare sector but above all employers are in reality "payers."

Other points covered was **Jobs4Jersey** (tool for job seekers and employers) and the importance of apprenticeships. Other predicted growth areas Sandy pointed out are radiology, ambulatory and occupational therapy as well as the probable resurgence for nurses to fill the retiree gap.

Scott pointed out the shortage of Physical Therapists because of the stringent educational requirements.

Committee discussed the backlog people face in need of physical therapy because, due to reimbursement regulations, this care cannot be delegated.

Karen Clark mentioned this was one of the topics discussed at a meeting she had just attended.

Sandy wrapped up the presentation with handouts outlining key industries in Mercer County as well as a breakdown of Healthcare Talent Network objectives. She mentioned the need for information from Community Colleges, the Network's plan to develop an Apprenticeship models for those work better in an OJT, exploration into credential stacking along with identification of career pathways. Also mentioned was plan to fast track veterans into college and earned credit through life experience.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 20, 2012** at the **Bellevue Avenue Campus of Capital Health System from 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM.**

Committee members: Since we are now meeting every other month, please mark your calendars for this meeting. It is important this committee has ample representation from our healthcare community partners!